

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended by replacement. No other claims have been amended. No claims have been added.

Another version of the amended claims, showing the changes relative to the previous version, is appended. Additions are shown by underlining. Deletions are shown by strikethrough rather than bracketing since the claims may contain bracketing that is to remain. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. Thus, the definition of R_1 as disclosed on page 2, line 16 has been incorporated into claims 10, 13 and 14. Additionally the value of n has been limited to exclude 0 in claims 2, 3, 10, 13 and 14. No new matter has been added. Since the proviso in claims 10, 13 and 14 is directed to a compound wherein n is 0, said proviso was deleted as surplusage.

Claims 2-11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kline (U.S. Patent No. 3,975,414) of record. Reconsideration is requested in light of the amendment *supra* and the following remarks.

Applicants concur that Klein '414 discloses thioether bis amides; that N,N'-bis(4-anilinophenyl)-3-thiahexanediamide is disclosed in column 4, line 16, and that a formulation containing this compound in silica loaded NBR rubber is shown in Sample 17 of Table IV of Kline '414.

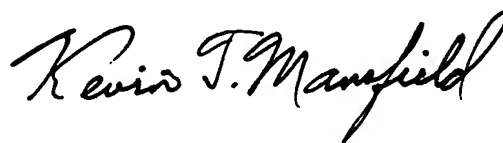
The claims as amended do not embrace thioether bis amides. Rather, they are directed to sulfoxides or sulfones of the formula I wherein R_1 is C_3 - C_8 alkyl, neither of which are taught nor suggested by Klein '414. Applicants aver said compounds are novella and unobvious over the thioether bis amides disclosed in Klein '414.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kline (U.S. Patent No. 3,975,414) is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 2-11, 13 and 14 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX: Marked up version of amended claims.

2. (twice amended) A composition according to claim 13, wherein component (b) is at least one compound of formula I, wherein

R_1 is ~~hydrogen or~~ C_3 - C_8 alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or methyl, and

n is the number 0 ~~or~~ 1.

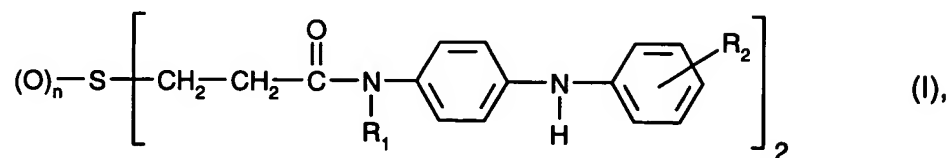
3. (twice amended) A composition according to claim 13, wherein component (b) is at least one compound of formula I, wherein

R_1 is ~~hydrogen or~~ C_3 - C_8 alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen, and

n is the number 0 ~~or~~ 1.

10. (amended) A ~~newel~~ compound of formula I

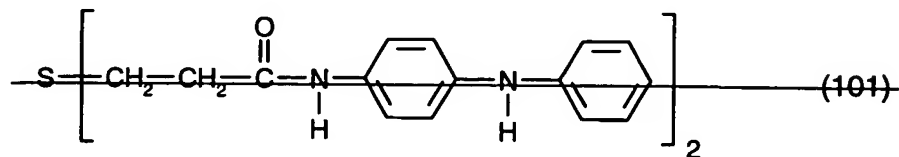


wherein

R_1 is ~~hydrogen, C_4 - C_{12} alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or benzyl~~ C_3 - C_{12} alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and

n is the number 0, 1 or 2, ~~with the proviso that the compound of formula (101)~~

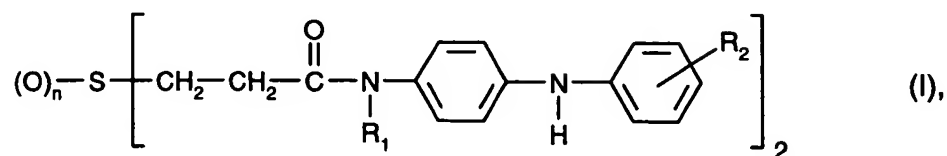


~~is excluded.~~

13. (amended) A composition, which comprises

a) a carbon black-free elastomer subject to oxidative, thermal, light- or ozone-induced degradation, and

b) at least one compound of formula I

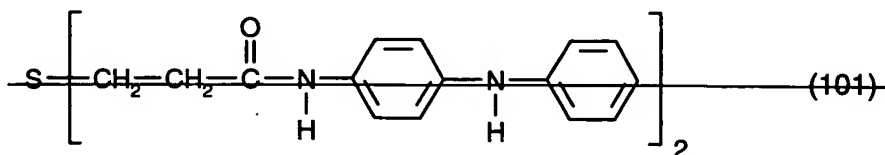


wherein

R₁ is ~~hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or benzyl~~ C₃-C₁₂alkyl,

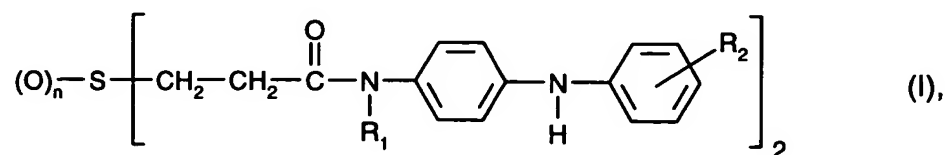
R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, and

n is the number 0, 1 or 2, ~~with the proviso that the compound of formula (101)~~



~~is excluded.~~

14. (amended) A process for stabilizing and reducing the discoloration of carbon black-free elastomers, which comprises incorporating in, or applying to, said elastomers at least one compound of formula I



wherein

R₁ is ~~hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or benzyl~~ C₃-C₁₂alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and
 n is the number 0, 1 or 2.